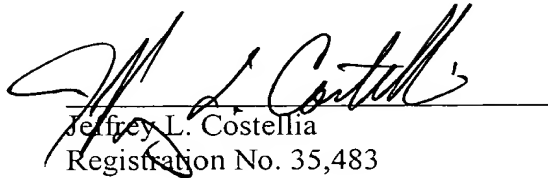


REMARKS

The claim has been amended to correct the improper multiple dependent claim and to place them in better condition for examination.

Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JLC/sas

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIM:**

8. (AMENDED) A surgical device as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, in which the sleeve is made of an elastomer material, whereby insertion of the distal ring into an incision stretches the elastomer material causing tension between the distal ring and proximal ring.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

(SIMILAR AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE TO IND. CLAIMS 1 AND 12)

11. A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type using an inflated cavity accessible to a surgeon through an access port, defined by the device, surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device comprising:

body cavity engagement means for insertion into the incision to locate the device in position including a distal ring;

fixing means for attaching the device to a patient's skin, said fixing means including a proximal ring;

a sleeve [connectable] connected between the body cavity engagement means and the fixing means, said sleeve having an adjustable length that shortens to cause said sleeve to apply outward pressure against the patient's body sufficient to retract the incision to define the access port; and

a sealing means mounted on at least one of the distal ring and the proximal ring to prevent substantial leakage of gas from the body cavity on inflation when in an operative position and formed to mold about a substantial portion of a surgeon's hand or surgical instrument on insertion in an operating position.

[0001] In use, an incision is made in the abdominal wall 3 and the distal ring 5 and associated cuff valve 8 is passed through the incision into the cavity 2. The distal ring 5 includes two semi-rigid actuators. The cuff valve 8 includes [operates by pressing together] internal faces of a flexible gas impermeable film of sleeve 4. The internal faces of sleeve 4 forming the cuff valve are mounted between the semi-rigid actuators of the distal ring 5 which operates to press together the internal faces to provide a seal. The actuators are arranged substantially parallel in folded ends of sleeve 4 [a distal tube] forming pockets to hold them in tension. The actuators have a bio-compatible medical grade foam along a side to cause tension between opposing faces of the film and to act as a cushion for objects inserted into the valve. The distal ring 5 is moved when in the cavity 2 so that the ring 5 surrounds the incision. The distal ring 5 thus surrounds the cuff valve 8. The proximal ring 6 can then be rotated, adjusted in height or stretched to take up the material and surplus sleeve 4 on the proximal ring 6. When the distal ring 5 is drawn up to snugly engage the internal abdominal wall 3 surrounding the incision, the proximal ring 6 is attached to the patient's skin to fix the device 1 in position. When in position, the sleeve 4 passing between the portions of the abdominal wall 3 exposed by the incision retracts the incision sides creating a lumen or bore through which an object or hand can be passed. A seal is provided by the cuff valve 8.